

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00 AID-05
CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00
DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 SOE-02 DOE-11 FMC-01 TRSE-00
H-01 INR-10 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-07 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 /137 W
-----121918 051251Z /50

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1290

INFO USMISSION UNUN NY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLOS, SA

SUBJECT: SAUDI POSITION ON SEABED RESOURCE EXPLOITATION

REF: (A) STATE 12946 (B) JIDDA 1059

1. DUTCH DCM HAS GIVEN EMBASSY POLITICAL OFFICER FOLLOWING REPORT ON HIS FEBRUARY 18 MEETING WITH SAUDI LAW OF SEA EXPERT AL-MADANI TO SEEK INFORMATION ABOUT SAUDI POSITION ON MAJOR QUESTIONS ADDRESSED IN RICHARDSON'S SPEECH. DUTCH DCM SAID THAT MANDANI DEFINED SAUDI ATTITUDE TOWARD (1) POWERS OF PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL AUTHORITY; (2) RIGHTS OF LAND-BASED MINERAL PRODUCERS; AND (3) ORGANIZATION OF INTERNATIONAL AUTHORITY.

2. ON QUESTION OF POWERS OF INTERNATIONAL AUTHORITY VA. RIGHTS OF PRIVATE COMPANIES IN SEABED EXPLORATION, AL-MADANI DESCRIBED SAUDI POSITION AS FLEXIBLE AND FAVORING ANY ACCEPTABLE COMPROMISE. THE MAIN SAUDI CONCERN IS NOT TO OPPOSE WILL OF MAJORITY ON THIS QUESTION.

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3. ON QUESTION OF RITHTS OF LAND-BASED MINERAL PRODUCERS, SAUDIS' ONLY INTEREST IS IN PETROLEUM. ACCORDING TO AL-MADANI, COUNTRY HAS NO INTEREST IN PROBLEM AS IT MIGHT CONCERN OTHER RESOURCES.

4. ON VOTING WITHIN INTERNATIONAL AUTHORITY, SAUDI ARABIA

FAVORS GIVING ALL COUNTRIES EQUAL VOTE WITHIN GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF INTERNATIONAL AUTHORITY WHILE RESERVING CONTROL OF BOARD OF GOVERNORS TO INTERESTED GROUPS WITH INVESTMENTS. ALTHOUGH AL-MADANI WOULD NOT DEFINE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND BOARD OF GOVERNORS, HE EMPHASIZED THAT ANY ARRANGEMENT FINALLY ADOPTED SHOULD ENSURE SEPARATION OF BUSINESS FROM POLITICS SO AS TO PREVENT "EXTREMISTS" (LIKE G-77) FROM CONTROLLING INTERNATIONAL AUTHORITY.

5. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH AL-MADANI'S IDEAS ARE NOT VERY PRECISE, HE IS ONLY LAW OF THE SEA EXPERT AT FOREIGN MINISTRY. IF THESE COMMENTS ARE ANY INDICATION, SAUDI ARABIA IS NOT LIKELY TO TAKE THE LEAD AT NEXT CONFERENCE SESSION.
WILEY

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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